

# THE GENIAL IDIOT

He Advances a New Literary Idea.

BY JOHN KENDRICK BANGS

"I have a friend in the publishing business," said the idiot, putting aside a weekly magazine which contained among other matters a Sherlock Holmes story, "and he told me he knew it for a fact that a certain publishing house in this country had offered Conan Doyle \$10,000 for all future rights, title and interest in his famous detective Sherlock Holmes."

"What a strange offer!" said the Bibliomaniac.

"Oh, I don't know," said the idiot, "seems to me it opens up a profitable field for speculation for a good many people, and certainly there is the germ of an idea there which properly developed would work to the advantage of everybody."

"I don't quite understand the proposition," put in Mr. Whitechoker. "What advantage does the American publishing house gain by buying a mere character out of a British author's book?"

"The advantage of proprietorship of a very valuable asset," explained the idiot. "For example, suppose Dr. Doyle acquiesces in the offer made for Sherlock Holmes. He would himself be doubly a gainer first of \$10,000 in cash, second in immunity from the annoyance of having his name in the pages of a book which he has no control over."

"But he brought him to life again!" said the Bibliomaniac.

"For commercial reasons," said the idiot, "not that he loved his dead Sherlock less but that he loved \$30,000 cash exclusive of royalties more."

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go! I think it would work to the advantage of literature if Holmes were to be used as a sort of Keeper of the Peace in our Magazines which now-a-days are so given over to an unnecessarily high death rate in their short fiction particularly. A lot of famous lives are slaughtered annually in our Magazines for the sole reason that there is no suitable police supervision over their contents. Beautiful fluffy girls on horseback fall through bridges into raging torrents and are killed for no known reason save the author's whim and the coroner's jury on the testimony of the Editor and his pal the Author find either that much abused thing Public Taste or Art responsible for the cutting short of a sweet young life. A Sherlock Holmes would stick a pin in the sudey fallacy in a minute and a few wholesome verdicts of murder in the first degree followed by punishment of Editors and Authors would result in a clearing up of that charnel house of Letters, that literary morgue, the American Magazine."

"And do you really believe anybody

has made such an offer as that to Dr. Doyle?" asked the Clergyman. "Well of course I won't vouch for it, but I shouldn't be surprised if somebody had," said the idiot. "It is quite in line with the things the American publishers are doing these days. They are progressive, fertile in expedients, and out for business. If they haven't done this thing it's probably because they haven't thought of it. But when they do think of it, well, you'll see a great shake up in the literary world. There'll be a huge revival of a lot of half-baked things that have been allowed to go into retirement on the library shelves in spite of the fact that there's a deal of life left in them yet. We shall be treated to a renaissance of character anything. We'll have the Prisoner of Zenda brought back to life and his Adventures as Private Secretary to a strenuous President of the United States will be spread on the pages of Literature. Mr. Davis' abandoned Van Bibber will be revived to tell his adventures in the Divorce Colony at Newport. We shall have dear old Pickwick in the flesh again giving

his impressions of latter day American Society, and the gallant Musketeers with D'Artagnan at their head will be brought into action again in a series of tales depicting the strenuous life in New York. Old Don Quixote will be furnished up and modernized and embarked upon a series of adventures in American politics, fighting valiantly as of yore as a candidate for the Presidency on the Socialist Ticket, and so on. Every great, highly visualized figure in literature by this method will be perpetuated, and instead of being relegated to the shelf will be kept in action for the rest of time—said that as it should be. What's the good of being imperishable if you only live twenty years of active life."

## JIMMY HARRISON'S DAM.

(Washington Post.) Jimmy Harrison was homesick. It was all very nice to live on a ranch and have a cow pony for one's very own, but for all that he missed the things which had been commonplace back east. Just now he wanted to build a dam. He could remember what a fine place Silver creek was to build dams, just the right width and volume of water, with swimming holes and trout in the stream. Here there was a broad, shallow stream fed from the foothills miles away. It was the only water in sight. Starting up in Shining gulch it ran down to the Rio Grande with never a feeder from the gulch to the river, and scarcely a stone in sight. He looked wistfully across the rolling

plain to where the faint blue line indicated the hills; then he looked back upon the unpainted ranch house. It was in glaring contrast to the little place back home, but here were health and happiness for his father. He would not complain, but all the same as he rode over the sandy soil that dam was before him like the mirage which tempts the desert traveler with promise of water. He was going to the railroad station forty miles away to get the weekly mail. It had seemed great larks at first, but constant habit had robbed the trip of novelty, and he saw only the burning sand and the withered looking sage brush. It was some fun in town. Three trains came in while he was there, and it seemed almost like home to see the panting engine

and the long line of travel-stained cars making up the overland. The came a night at the Eagle hotel, and an early start just as the sun began to tinge the eastern sky. He reached Tanager's by 1 o'clock, and started on the second half of his journey. He could see that dam more plainly than ever now, and a sob welled up in his throat for he was only 14. Shining river gleamed in the distance, and with an unaccountable impulse he turned his horse toward the foothills. They were twenty miles away, but the little cow pony was fresh, and the sun was just sinking when he at last came to the approach of the gulch. Here the river began to be fed by little creeks, and at the first of these Jimmy flung himself from his pony, and next time he came over his head rushed toward the brook. The pony grazed quietly along the bank, finding the grass unusually tender, but he might have run away for all Jimmy cared. Here were rocks and a brook fairly made for the purpose. In an hour he had his dam two feet high, and the water was bubbling over the top just as it did in the good old New Hampshire days.

Then for the first time the boy realized that they might be worrying about him at home. Also he realized that they were far from the little place back home, and in ten minutes he was headed for the ranch.

Soon the moon came up, and by 12 o'clock he ran into his father and a couple of the men who, grown anxious, had ridden out in search of him. He deserved a whipping, but when he told how he came to be delayed his father's voice grew husky.

"Never mind, lad," he said slowly, "some day I'll send you back again when the ranch in all paid for, and we can show a profit, but next time you can't build a dam tell us about it first."

## Wills and Words.

(Kansas City Journal.) Two wills were filed with the probate judge in Atchison county. One read: "Will I give all my property to my wife."

The other read: "I give, devise and bequeath all my property, real and personal, and mixed together with all tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances, thereto belonging or otherwise appertaining, wheresoever situated, to have and to hold, for all time and forever, etc."

Shrewd. Rooster—Don't you know you're sitting on a litter of glass eggs? Hen—No! Don't mention it! As long as the hired man takes me for a fool he'll bring me my meals, and I won't have to grub for a living.



**HAVE YOU SEEN**  
The beautiful and artistic Medallions made from your own photo, which we give free with every \$10 worth of purchases? Ask to see them

**Skin Lotions**  
KEEP YOUR SKIN SOFT AND VELVETY IN THIS COLD WEATHER BY USING PURE, HARMLESS LOTIONS SPECIALLY PREPARED FOR USE ON HANDS AND FACE.  
Flax, quince and cucumber jelly, each regular 25c, regular 15c  
Dr. Pray's Gloria Lily Lotion, without a superior, 50c  
Pinaud's "Baume Dermique," one of the highest grade lotions imported, 25c regular, 50c this week

**HANDKERCHIEFS**  
For Men and Women.  
SALE OF FINE UNLAUNDERED HANDKERCHIEFS FOR WOMEN. Guaranteed all pure shiraz linen, hand embroidered initials or with 3 rows of fancy hemstitching and dainty embroidered corners, a great bargain at 15c  
Men's all pure linen hemstitched, the quality of the linen is very fine, equal to a 3c quality, full assortment lotters, while they last, 20c  
C. B. corsets in black, white and drab, cut, medium bust, short hip, special 50c  
G. D. "Justine" corset, girder top with built hip, hose support, front and side, Special this week \$1.00  
Boys' waist of heavy cotton, well covered with taped top, tons, special 25c

**Women's New BELTS.**  
Silk and velvet belts in great variety of new styles, with metal buckles, 25c and 50c values, only 25c  
Taffeta, peau de soie, and poplin belts, in new styles and pleated, 50c and 75c values, only 35c  
New style wide crush satin, silk and velvet belts in all the rich new colors and pleated, red, blue, orange, green, brown, black, etc., 50c and \$1.00 grades 50c  
"Buster Brown" patent leather belts in red, white and black, gilt or oxidized buckles, 35c only 25c

**COLLARS**  
You Will Admire.  
Embroidered top collars in all colors, of embroidery, 25c values, only 15c  
Fancy buttonhole effect richly embroidered collars, all the striking new designs, now so popular, 25c values, only 15c  
String ties in silk to go with above collars, all colors, 15c at 10c  
Silk Windsor ties, all shades, hemstitched edges, 25c at 15c

## Here's Splendid News for Women.



**SKIRTS MADE FREE**  
Of Charge This Week  
YOU PAY FOR YOUR ORDINARY SKIRT LENGTH AND FINDINGS AND AN EXPERT MAN TAILOR WILL MAKE YOU A DRESS OR WALKING SKIRT ABSOLUTELY FREE OF ANY ADDITIONAL COST TO YOU.

## NEW MADE VEILS, 50c

Black and colored chiffon veils, full 14 yards long, satin ribbon trimmed all around, come in all the new shades, regular \$1.00. This week only—

**S. & H. TRADING STAMPS**  
Given with every purchase without cost to you. They secure costly premiums. Start a Book Monday. 50c worth FREE with Every Book.  
An Event That Will Save You Many Dollars.  
Misses' and Children's Coats

**\$4.98**  
A large assortment short box, 3 and full length coats for half the regular price. Mixtures, plain chevrons and kerseys in brown, navy and ecru. With or without capes, sizes 4 to 16 years. There are coats in the lot that have sold for \$7.50, special \$4.98  
LADIES' FANCY TWEED LONG TOURIST COAT, ALSO NOBBY BOX COATS \$8.75  
Some extra heavy weight. The greatest values ever shown in this assortment of coats. All sizes and nobby styles, suitable for ladies or misses. \$12.00 values, this week \$8.75

**Great Suit Values.**  
Another Choice of Several Suit Bargain at Different Styles  
\$9.50 \$14.95  
For your choice of a dozen new styles. They are all fashionable new suits. You'll find loose belted box coats, tight fitting and collarless styles, pretty trimmed suits in the lot that were bought to sell for double the amount. \$18.00, choice this week \$9.50 \$14.95  
The assortment consists of every new creation brought out this season. Long and short coat effects; in all the popular fabrics and shades, suits for which you would have to pay in other stores, \$23.00. Special, this week at only \$9.50 \$14.95

**NEW SILK NET and WOOL WAISTS.**  
The waist section is brimming over with the newest modes for the early fall and winter. One must see the collection to appreciate the wide range of new and clever designs here to choose from. Today we place on sale for appreciation the new bargains will appeal most to those who have compared.

**\$3.98 TAFETTA SILK WAISTS.**—If you're familiar with the general price of such beautiful and smart silk waists as these, you'll experience a distinct thrill when you see that we have marked them at prices that we have marked them at.

**\$2.00 ALBATROSS AND WAISTS.**—ALBATROSS AND WAISTS—All these are shirred and tucked yokes; the flannel waists are daintily piped with check and plaid silks. Very smart and up-to-date. All sizes from 24 to 34.

**\$4.95 FOR SILK LINED WAISTS.**—FRONT EFFECTIVELY TRIMMED WITH MEDALLIONS, IN BLACK AND WHITE. The smartest of all styles, with a very smart and up-to-date \$19.00 waist. All sizes.

**SPECIAL VALUES IN FLANNELS.**  
Extra heavy cream Domest flannels, 27 inches wide, per yard, 10c  
Extra heavy, unbleached Canton flannel, 27 inches wide, per yard, 11c  
White or cream Daisie flannel, 27 inches wide, per yard, 12c  
Yard wide celebrated Ballard flannels, 6c grade, 50c  
6-ounce all-wool California, gray, cadet and navy, also black, special, per yard, 50c  
Embroidered and hemstitched flannels, for short skirt, infant long skirts, etc., 6c grade, 55c

## FURS!

WE WISH TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT WE HAVE THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPLETE STOCK OF LADIES' MISSES AND CHILDREN'S FURS IN THE CITY, EMBRACING ALL THE LEADING AND FASHIONABLE DESIGNS, SILKS, LENGTHS ETC. IN THIS SEASON'S NECKWEAR, AND ALL AT PRICES SO REASONABLE THAT YOU WILL BE CONVINCED THAT WE CAN SUPPLY YOUR WANTS AT MUCH LESS THAN OTHERS CHARGE.

Black Coney Neck Scarfs, six tails, chain fasteners, our price 98c  
Brown hare scarfs, squirrel lined, large fluffy neck piece, \$2.39 for

Black Coney ruff, two yards long, finished with cord and chain fasteners, six bushy tails our price \$3.00  
Your choice of six different neck scarfs, all two yards long patterns in German mink, blended sable, imitation Stone Marten, brown and black Belgium (Coney), the season's \$6.00

At \$3.00, \$10.00, \$12.00, \$14.00, \$16.00 and up to \$25.00, we have a magnificent stock to select from. Jackets in all sizes, best Electric Seal, handsome mink, Southern Canadian beaver, blended Marten, Neutra, etc.

These garments are high class in every particular and need only your inspection to convince you that we can save you many dollars on any fur coat or cape purchased from us.

AS A SPECIAL, FOR MONDAY and week we offer ladies' good quality Electric Seal jackets, 26 inches long, high storm collar and revers, sizes 34 to 44, \$24.50

Also, same style with Southern Beaver trimming, size 34 to 44, for only \$33.50

**The "Triumph" Kid Gloves**  
Are made from selected stock, fit well and hold their shape. Two-crochet over one row of fine knit crochet embroidery, in the following desirable colors: Mode, golden brown, seal, tan, esbony, brown, green, black and white. A thoroughly reliable glove at a low price—guaranteed by the maker—price \$1.00

**Mill Ends in Outing Flannels**  
One case of loom remnants in good grade outing flannels, to go in last week's mill end sale, came straggling in too late. How many of you are ready for special selling Monday morning—At 1/3 Less than Price on the Bolt

**LINEN SPECIALS.**  
66-inch all pure Irish linen table Damask, nothing better or stronger imported, 3 excellent new patterns to choose from, regular price 85c, special 75c  
NAPKINS—If you can use half dozen there are innumerable bargains here on Monday. All linens, excellent quality, 6 for 55c, 6 1/2 for 55c, 7 for 55c, 8 for 55c, 9 for 55c, 10 for 55c, 11 for 55c, 12 for 55c, 13 for 55c, 14 for 55c, 15 for 55c, 16 for 55c, 17 for 55c, 18 for 55c, 19 for 55c, 20 for 55c, 21 for 55c, 22 for 55c, 23 for 55c, 24 for 55c, 25 for 55c, 26 for 55c, 27 for 55c, 28 for 55c, 29 for 55c, 30 for 55c, 31 for 55c, 32 for 55c, 33 for 55c, 34 for 55c, 35 for 55c, 36 for 55c, 37 for 55c, 38 for 55c, 39 for 55c, 40 for 55c, 41 for 55c, 42 for 55c, 43 for 55c, 44 for 55c, 45 for 55c, 46 for 55c, 47 for 55c, 48 for 55c, 49 for 55c, 50 for 55c, 51 for 55c, 52 for 55c, 53 for 55c, 54 for 55c, 55 for 55c, 56 for 55c, 57 for 55c, 58 for 55c, 59 for 55c, 60 for 55c, 61 for 55c, 62 for 55c, 63 for 55c, 64 for 55c, 65 for 55c, 66 for 55c, 67 for 55c, 68 for 55c, 69 for 55c, 70 for 55c, 71 for 55c, 72 for 55c, 73 for 55c, 74 for 55c, 75 for 55c, 76 for 55c, 77 for 55c, 78 for 55c, 79 for 55c, 80 for 55c, 81 for 55c, 82 for 55c, 83 for 55c, 84 for 55c, 85 for 55c, 86 for 55c, 87 for 55c, 88 for 55c, 89 for 55c, 90 for 55c, 91 for 55c, 92 for 55c, 93 for 55c, 94 for 55c, 95 for 55c, 96 for 55c, 97 for 55c, 98 for 55c, 99 for 55c, 100 for 55c

**TOWELS**  
20x40 heavy cotton towels, Marcelline weave and long fringed ends, extra value at 10c  
16-25c, our price only 12c  
24x40 fringed unbleached Turkish bath towels, 2c value for 12c

**PILLOW CASES AND SHEETS.**  
45x36 size "Knockout" heavy cotton pillow cases, hemmed and finished, special cut from 12c  
72x36 heavy bleached cotton sheets, hemmed, torn and ironed, ready for use, instead of 85c, 59c

**Blankets, Quilts, Etc.**  
55c per pair for 10-4 gray or tan sheet blankets.  
59c for white, tan or gray heavy cotton sheet blankets.  
75c for 11-4 gray sheet blankets, extra heavy grade.  
\$1.00 for 12-4 full double bed size, superior finished cotton blankets.  
\$4.50 for 6-pound gray California wool blankets, worth \$5.50 regularly.  
\$5.75 for 11-4 California all-wool blankets, worth \$6.75 regularly.  
\$7.50 for 12-4 California all-wool blankets, worth \$8.50 regularly.  
\$1.50 for 12-4 California all-wool blankets, worth \$1.50 regularly.  
\$1.50 for 12-4 California all-wool blankets, worth \$1.50 regularly.

**HOSIERY FOR WINTER**  
Women's black heavy fleeced cotton stockings, with elastic ribbed tops, a splendid quality for the season, 20c  
Women's black fine seamless cashmere hose, heel and toe a 5c value for 35c  
Children's and misses' black cotton fleeced lined, also in all wool weights, wide and fine ribbed, a most reliable winter stocking for school wear at 25c  
Men's worsted seamless socks, winter weight, in black, camel's hair and natural, at 15c

**UNDERWEAR**  
Women's vests and pants, very fine weave, and medium weight in gray, cream and white, fleeced lined, silk taped, pearl 50c  
Bustions, finished seams 50c  
Australian wool ribbed underwear, with a mixture of cotton, hand-trimmed and finished, come in white and natural, 12c values, at 75c  
The celebrated "Troquois" make vests and pants. Extra fine ribbed, two-hairs wool, hand-finished, in the weight now so extensively used; come in white and natural, \$1.00 value, at 75c  
Women's light, medium weight, fast black, open or closed, large flaps, fine weave, silk \$1.00  
Taped finished seamless ribbed vests, and tight to match, two-thirds wool, \$1.50 values, at \$1.25  
Children's or misses' union suits, fleeced lined, in silver 35c

**MUSLIN AND FLANNELLETTE GARMENTS.**  
Women's gowns, made of flannellette, in pink and blue stripes. Hubbard's muslin gowns, regular \$5c value, special this 59c  
Women's muslin gowns, Daisy flannel, in pink, blue or white, trimmed with silk braid, special this week \$1.25  
Flannellette, umbrella style, deep flounce, silk edge, special 50c  
Women's short skirts of heavy flannel, in pink and blue, trimmed with lace, 85c  
Women's flannellette Mother Hubbard style, yoke of fine tucks and insertion, ruffle around neck and sleeves, 50c  
Women's muslin gowns, yoke of six rows of insertions, and tucks, dainty embroidery around back and sleeves, regular \$1.00 value, special 75c

## Dress Goods.

WE NEVER MARK PRICES UP FOR THE SAKE OF MAKING THEM DOWN AGAIN.  
THAT'S A FACT THAT DON'T PAY IN THE LONG RUN.  
OUR LOW PRICES BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEASON. AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THESE ITEMS.

Pretty dress goods, in mohair and all-wool fabrics, abelines in mixtures and illuminated effects, chevrons and other desirable fabrics, at per yard, only—

**55 CENTS.**  
Mannish suitings, now all the rage, for tailored garments. We're showing a very extensive assortment of designs ranging in price from 25c to \$2.00 per yard, 36 to 44 inches wide.

Any one of our popular styles in these lines are to be found plain and illuminated abelines, hard twisted mannish mixtures and fine imported fancy mohairs, at per yard—

**\$1.25 and \$1.00.**  
Cloth suitings are used to a great extent for fall and winter wear tailored-made dresses. A lady always looks well dressed in a costume made of these nobby fabrics. Tomorrow we will offer an exceptionally fine assortment in broadcloth, Venetians, covert suitings, melons and Scotch tweed effects, at per yard—

**\$1.50, \$1.25 and \$1.00.**  
Black goods are always in style. If in doubt what to buy, get a black dress fabric. We are showing an extraordinary line of the most popular weaves in both wool and mohair goods which we guarantee to give satisfaction in every respect. We offer a collection of good values at per yard—

**\$1.50, \$1.25 and \$1.00**

**Our Velvet Section Seeks Comparison.**  
We show an unequalled collection of reliable silk velvets, in plain and crushed effects, also full line of colors and shades. You cannot purchase a handsomer material for fall costume or waists, specially priced for this week in the different quantities and styles, at per yard—

**\$1.25, \$1.00, 75c and 50c**

**New Wrappers, Kimonos, Petticoats, Sacques and the New Shirt Waist Wrappers**  
THE VALUES HERE MENTIONED ARE UNUSUALLY SPECIAL.

Fleece-lined wrappers, rich dark colors, 98c  
Mercedized sateen wrappers, excellent fall styles 26.65  
Pleated silk sacques, variety styles 59c  
Beautiful swansdown trim 29.95  
Pleated lined long kimonos, trimmed sateen straps to 17.75  
Flannellette lined sateen petticoats, ruffle and strap trim 14.40  
Infants' elderdown sacques, all colors, 98c  
The nobby knit kimono sacque, all colors, 36.65

**The New Shirt Waist Wrapper.**  
These we must briefly describe. They are made of flannellette, dark rich patterns, the waist and skirt effect being very full, having a draw string at waist with belt over it. All are neatly trimmed with broad tuckled yokes, and some ruffle trimmed. All sizes from 24 to 34.

We intend to carry a full line of these excellent house dresses, but will place on sale for this week to introduce them, two \$2.25 styles, one for \$1.75 and another \$1.75